

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for searching data comprising:
2 generating a temporally ranked set of search results in response to a query, the
3 step of generating a temporally the temporally ranked set of search results
4 comprising:
5 generating an initial set of search results; and
6 ranking at least a portion of the initial set of search results based on
7 temporal factors to generate the temporally ranked set of search results.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the initial set of search
2 results comprises using reputation based factors or content based factors.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of ranking the initial search results
2 comprises assigning a present importance weight and a future importance weight
3 to each result in the initial set of search results.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 determining the present importance of each result using creation date, publication
3 date, in-link dates, search frequency or combinations thereof; and
4 determining the future importance using an aging factor based on the elapsed time
5 from publication for each search result and a rate at which each search result
6 decreases in importance.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data being searched comprises web-based
2 data and the method further comprises obtaining time and date information about
3 each search result from meta content associated with the search result.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 identifying a first portion of the initial search results having creation dates after a
3 pre-determined threshold date; and
4 identifying a second portion of the initial search results having creation dates
5 before the pre-determined threshold date;
6 wherein the step of ranking at least a portion of the search results comprises
7 ranking the second portion.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising ranking the first portion of the initial
2 search results based on a reputation associated with authors of each result, a
3 reputation associated with a repository where each result is located or a
4 combination of author and repository reputation.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising ranking the initial set of search results
2 based upon the reputation or content of each result.

1 9. A computer readable medium containing a computer executable code that when
2 read by a computer causes the computer to perform a method for searching data
3 comprising generating a temporally ranked set of search results in response to a
4 query, said step of generating a temporally ranked set of search results comprising:
5 generating an initial set of search results; and
6 ranking at least a portion of the initial set of search results based on
7 temporal factors to generate the temporally ranked set of search results.

1 10. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the step of ranking the initial
2 search results comprises assigning a present importance weight and a future
3 importance weight to each result in the initial set of search results.

1 11. The computer readable medium of claim 10, further comprising:
2 determining the present importance of each result using creation date, publication
3 date, in-link dates, search frequency or combinations thereof; and
4 determining the future importance using an aging factor based on the elapsed time
5 from publication for each search result and a rate at which each search result
6 decreases in importance.

1 12. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the data being search
2 comprises web-based data and the method further comprises obtaining time and
3 date information about each search result from meta content associated with the
4 search result.

1 13. The computer readable medium of claim 9, further comprising:
2 identifying a first portion of the initial search results having creation dates after a
3 pre-determined threshold date; and
4 identifying a second portion of the initial search results having creation dates
5 before the pre-determined threshold date;
6 wherein the step of ranking at least a portion of the search results comprises
7 ranking the second portion.

1 14. The computer readable medium of claim 10, further comprising ranking the first
2 portion of the initial search results based on a reputation associated with authors
3 of each result, a reputation associated with a repository where each result is
4 located or a combination of author and repository reputation.

1 15. A method comprising:
2 offering a service to customers that generates a temporally ranked set of search
3 results in response to a query; and
4 modifying one or more parameters of the service in response to customer input.

- 1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the parameters comprise rate of phase-out of old
2 data, decay rate, temporal criteria, reputation ranking techniques or combinations
3 thereof.
- 1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein further comprising modifying the parameters
2 based upon the topic or repository being searched.